



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Kevin J. Thorne
James J. Benedict

Attorney Docket: SBI-073

S/N: 09/746,921

Group: 1651

Filed: 12/22/00

For: Composition and Process for
Bone Growth and Repair

Examiner: Patricia A. Patten

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Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION DATED JULY 16, 2002

This paper is filed in response to the Office Action mailed July 16, 2002, for which the three month shortened statutory period for response was October 16, 2002. A petition for a one month extension of time is filed herewith, extending the period for response to November 16, 2002. Applicants respectfully request that the following amendments be entered and the application be reconsidered in view thereof. It is believed that no additional fee is required. However, please charge any such additional fees, along with the fee for the extension of time, to Centerpulse Deposit Account No. 09-0473.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 1-3 as follows. A marked-up version of the claims is attached in APPENDIX A entitled "CLAIMS MARKED-UP TO SHOW CHANGES MADE."

2. (Amended) A bone growth composition, comprising:
 - (a) a substrate;
 - (b) a bone growth protein; and,
 - (c) a salt composition consisting essentially of an acidic calcium phosphate salt, wherein the bone growth composition has an acidic buffering potential in physiological solution.